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## NOTE.

In compiling the mortality of American cities, many discrepancies occur, and it is often entirely a matter of personal judgment which statistics should be accepted. Sometimes the mortality of a given locality is reported by different authorities, as is the case in New Jersey and Massachusetts, and sometimes discrepancies occur in the different tables of a given report. In the preceding tables the returns are believed to be as accurate as any available; and, if, as a result of their publication in this convenient form, corrections and additions shall be made in the future by health officers or others in authority, the practical value of this investigation will be materially enhanced. Regarding the more important discrepancies or variations in the returns, I add the following notes:—

*Boston, Mass.* The mortality of Boston has been derived from the Massachusetts State Registration Reports. The returns differ slightly from those given in a summary table on p. 314 of the Report of the Boston City Registry Department for 1904.

*Detroit, Mich.* The mortality record of this city is very unsatisfactory. The frequent changes in the dates on which the statistical year is made to end makes a reliable comparison of the mortality from year to year almost impossible. The deaths for 1897 were obtained by correspondence, and the deaths for 1898 to 1904 have been derived from the Monthly Bulletins of the State Department of Vital Statistics.

*Fall River, Mass.* The mortality for Fall River has been derived from the State Registration Reports of Massachusetts. The deaths for the earlier years of the period considered were necessarily from that source, and to make the returns comparable the later statistics have also been compiled from the State Reports, although for certain years they have been published in the annual reports of the local Board of Health. The statistics in the latter report sometimes differ considerably from those found in the State Registration Reports. In 1901, for example, the local report gives 2,143 deaths against 1,987 in the State Registration Report.

*Jersey City, N.J.* The annual report of the local Board of Health of Hudson County for 1904 contains a summary table of the mortality of Jersey City for the period 1875–1904, inclusive. The return

varies from the State Reports (1879-1904), but, upon the assumption that the local record is more complete and accurate, I have used the returns of the Hudson County Board of Health.

*Newark, N.J.* The mortality from 1871 to 1878, inclusive, has been derived from "Mortality and Sanitary Record of Newark, N.J.," by Edgar Holden, M.D., and is for calendar years. To complete the record, the mortality as returned by the State Board of Health has been accepted for the years 1879-1904. The years 1879 to 1900, inclusive, end June 30, and the years 1901 to 1904 end December 31. The mortality records of Newark as published by the local Health Department and the City Clerk do not agree. Since the report of the City Clerk is used in the summary tables of the State Reports, the State returns have been accepted for the period 1879-1904.

*Worcester, Mass.* The Annual Report of the Board of Health of Worcester for 1905 contains a summary table of the mortality of the city for the period 1864 to 1904, inclusive. The returns do not, in many instances, agree with the State Registration Reports, nor with those contained in the Annual Reports of the Board of Health. It has been assumed that the summary table is the most accurate statement available.